

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend the paragraph on page 18, lines 17-30 as follows:

The insertion between positions 42 and 43 is preferably selected from the group consisting of (in BASBPN numbering)

X42X{A,T,G,S}, e.g., X42XA, X42XT, X42XG, X42XS;

X42X{D,E,K,R}, e.g., X42XD, X42XE, X42XK, X42XR;

X42X{H,V,C,N,Q}, e.g., X42XH, X42XV, X42XC, X42XN, X42XQ; and

X42X{F,I,L,M,P,W,Y}, e.g., X42XF, X42XI, X42XL, X42XM, X42XP, X42XW, X42XY;

or more specific for subtilisin 309 and closely related subtilases, such as BAALKP, BLSUBL, and BSKSMK:

~~D~~L42LD{A,T,G,S}, e.g., ~~D~~42DA, ~~D~~42DT, ~~D~~42DG, ~~D~~42DS L42LA, L42LT, L42LG, L42LS;

~~D~~L42LD{D,E,K,R}, e.g., ~~D~~42DD, ~~D~~42DE, ~~D~~42DK, ~~D~~42DR L42LD, L42LE, L42LK, L42LR;

~~D~~L42LD{H,V,C,N,Q}, e.g., ~~D~~42DH, ~~D~~42DV, ~~D~~42DC, ~~D~~42DN, ~~D~~42DQ L42LH, L42LV, L42LC, L42LN, L42LQ; and

~~D~~L42LD{F,I,L,M,P,W,Y}, e.g., ~~D~~42DF, ~~D~~42DI, ~~D~~42DL, ~~D~~42DM, ~~D~~42DP, ~~D~~42DW, ~~D~~42DY L42LF, L42LI, L42LL, L42LM, L42LP, L42LW, L42LY.